

[15th December 1923]

Noes

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter.             | 24. Mr. P. V. Gopalan.                       |
| 2. „ Mr. A. R. Knapp.                          | 25. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu.      |
| 3. „ „ C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.                  | 26. The Raja of Kurupam.                     |
| 4. „ the Raja of Kollengode.                   | 27. Honv. Lt. Madurai.                       |
| 5. „ „ Panagal.                                | 28. Mr. T. Mallesappa.                       |
| 6. „ Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro.                  | 29. Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chetti ar.   |
| 7. „ Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnam Pillai.      | 30. Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar.               |
| 8. Mr. Legh.                                   | 31. „ B. Obalesappa.                         |
| 9. „ Madhavan Nayar.                           | 32. „ K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai.               |
| 10. „ P. L. Moore.                             | 33. „ P. T. Rajan.                           |
| 11. „ G. F. Paddison.                          | 34. „ B. Ramachandra Reddi.                  |
| 12. „ H. Tireman.                              | 35. Rao Bahadur P. Raman.                    |
| 13. „ C. Nicholson.                            | 36. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.              |
| 14. „ P. W. Partridge.                         | 37. „ P. Sagaram.                            |
| 15. „ A. E. Rencontre.                         | 38. „ J. D. Samuel.                          |
| 16. „ A. J. Leech.                             | 39. „ K. Sarvarayudu.                        |
| 17. „ S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad.                | 40. „ R. Srinivasan.                         |
| 18. „ Ari Gowder.                              | 41. The Raja of Ramnad.                      |
| 19. „ P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar.               | 42. Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. |
| 20. „ A. V. Bhanoji Rao.                       | 43. Mr. T. V. S. Sundaramurthi.              |
| 21. „ Devendrudu.                              | 44. „ O. Tanikachala Chettiayar.             |
| 22. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti yar. | 45. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi.       |
| 23. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiayar.           | 46. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar.          |
|  | 47. „ M. Ratnaswami.                         |
|  | 48. „ Venkatachala Padayachi.                |

42 voted *for* the Motion and 48 *against* it. The Motion was declared lost amidst Opposition cheers.

The House then (12-55 p.m.) rose for lunch.

The House re-assembled after lunch at 3-30 p.m., the hon. the President in the Chair.

V

MOTION REGARDING THE HON. THE PRESIDENT'S RETIREMENT.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—“ Mr. President, I beg leave to move—

*That the thanks of this Council be given to the hon. the President for his distinguished services in the Chair for nearly three years; that he be assured that this Council greatly appreciates the ability and impartiality with which he has discharged the duties of his high office, through the first period of the existence of this Reformed Legislative Council, and the judgment and firmness with which he has maintained its privileges and dignity; and that the Council desires to place on record its deep and abiding sense of gratitude for the courtesy and attention which he has uniformly shown to its Members, which has earned him the respect and esteem of all sections of the same.*

“ I deem myself especially fortunate, Sir, in that it falls to my lot to make the motion to-day, not only because I am sure I shall find myself for a change in the position, not of having ‘practically no following’ (laughter) but of having the unanimous following of the whole Council (hear, hear), but also because it is a great pleasure to me personally to be allowed to voice the universal feelings of this House, of admiration, respect, and honour and, if I may say so, of affection (hear, hear) for one who has served his country so well for something that is coming nigh upon forty



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years and has now added to his previous record that of having given dignity, wisdom and respect to the deliberations of this assembly. (Hear, hear and cheers).

"There are many descriptions, Sir, of the functions of the ideal president of an assembly of this kind. I will take one by an Austrian writer in which he sums up the characteristics of the great speakers of the Mother Parliaments: 'Ceaseless diligence and love of order in the management of Parliamentary business, a lofty conception of the speaker's task, the passing on from generation to generation of a tradition of unapproachable personal integrity and political impartiality, have come to be associated with the very idea of the speakership: these qualities united to a clear grasp of the method of conducting business, and at times to an amazing sagacity in handling men, are the great characteristic traits of the speakers as they pass in long sequence before the view of the historian of Parliament.' I venture to claim, Sir, that with the one exception of traditions passing from generation to generation, an exception which makes it all the more remarkable (hear, hear), we have had in the President of our Council a combination of all the qualities which Mr. Redlich finds in the speakers of the House of Commons. (Cheers.)

"I need not enlarge, Sir, upon your mastery of Parliamentary form. You have made a deep study of Parliamentary procedure not only in the books and at conferences with your fellow Presidents but by actually visiting the Mother of Parliaments and observing the procedure there. As a consequence you have decided points of order and interpreted the rules of the House in a manner that none can dispute. You have kept our talk strictly to the subject of the discussion. You have always been seized with the drift of the argument even of the dullest speaker in the dreariest debate. (Laughter.) You have never slept in your chair. (Laughter and cheers.) You have known what to hear and what on occasion it was better not to hear. But, above all, you have been ever ready to assist the newest or oldest of us in any point of doubt or difficulty that might arise and have been on every such occasion to our 'virtues vevy kind' and to our faults more than 'a little blind'.

"Nor need I enlarge, Sir, upon your lofty conception of the President's task, except to say that you have by your own personality in a very great measure made up for the lack of that tradition years which counts for so much in the Mother of Parliaments. The old forms which are revered there, if they are introduced in a new country, are apt to be regarded as somewhat out of place, if they are not disregarded altogether. You have avoided such an event and have established and guarded with jealous care the authority, honour, privileges and dignity of this House. (Hear, hear.) You have taken and maintained the position of the first Commoner, which is, I submit, pre-eminently a non-official position, in such a way that no one who did not know your record would credit that you had a long life of bureaucracy behind you (laughter and cheers) and in so doing have done honour, I venture to say, both to this House and to the bureaucratic order of which you were once so distinguished an ornament. (Laughter.)

"And while you have remembered the House's dignity, you have also had regard to its passing phase of poverty, and have been the first to set an example of retrenchment by foregoing a substantial part of the salary His Excellency the Governor has fixed as befitting the dignity of the post you hold (cheers).



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"The next great characteristic trait which has been remarked in the Speakers of the House of Commons is an amazing sagacity in handling men. You have been, Sir, a true friend to every one of us (hear, hear) and, when on any occasion you have found it necessary to administer a rebuke, you have done so in such a way as to give the rebuke the flavour of a compliment (laughter). Added to this, your saving grace of humour has saved us from many an awkward situation that we might afterwards have remembered with regret. If I may quote what Mr. Lloyd George said of Mr. Speaker Lowther: 'Your wit has been at once the delight and the security of the House' (hear, hear). Many a thundercloud has been scattered when it was on the point of breaking with consequences disastrous to the dignity of this Assembly.

"In conclusion, Sir, may I say that we all rejoice that no failure of mind or body is responsible for your retirement from the Chair? We know that in your case the retirement simply means that you go to serve the Presidency which you love so well in another capacity (hear, hear). If, therefore, we miss your presence in this House, we shall on the other hand feel that we are gainers by the fact that you no longer wear the white bands which are the mark of a neutral political life, but are able once again to take up the cudgels on behalf of Madras. And who can realize better the advantages of having you as champion than the non-official Members of this Council who have borne the shrewd blows that you dealt them in the vanished days when you were the mainstay of the Government Bench?

"I feel sure, Sir, that my Motion will be carried with no opposing voice (hear, hear) and that your last difficulty in your high office will be to bring to a close the speeches of those who wish to follow me on a theme on which it is impossible to say too much" (loud and prolonged cheers).

The RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, I have great pleasure in associating myself with what my hon. Friend, Sir Charles Todhunter, 3-45 p.m. has just said. Indeed, Sir, it is a source of no small gratification to me to have this opportunity of giving expression to our sense of gratitude to you for the very able manner in which you have been conducting the proceedings of this Council. In you, Sir, we have had an ideal President. Your extraordinary abilities and your inimitable humour have saved the Council in somewhat difficult situations. Your sagacious judgment and your high sense of duty have been responsible for the establishment of many an excellent convention in this Council. Sir, you are now leaving us to take your place in the India Council and we are sure that with your determination to serve the interests of your country you will be an asset to that august body. And from there, we expect you to guide the destinies of our Presidency with that highminded statesmanship which is so characteristic of you.

"Sir, on an occasion like the present it is rather difficult to give adequate expression to our feelings. This much I am able to say that the loss that this Presidency in general, and this Chamber in particular, sustains by the relinquishment of your office as President of this Council can never be repaired. Our only consolation is that to the extent our Province loses India as a whole gains. We wish you Godspeed.

"With these observations I second the Motion which has been so eloquently made by my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House (loud cheers)."



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Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, Mr. President, I rise with feelings of deep sorrow to associate myself with the Leader of the House to-day. I cannot find sufficient words to express my feelings on this solemn occasion ; my words are much deeper than my lips.

" Sir, I have the fortune to have known you for over two decades, whether as a Deputy Collector, as Diwan, practically ruler of two enlightened Native States, as a Member of the Executive Council, as the first Indian Vice-President of the pre-Reformed Council and as the first President of this august House. Sir, you have earned a reputation, that is a universal one, of being a very good, sympathetic and kind Friend especially to your old acquaintances however low they may be in social position, of being a public-spirited officer. Sir, you were always known as a public man even in Government service, of being a thorough reformer both socially and politically, of being a cosmopolitan statesman and a great and talented administrator 'introducing modern instincts' wherever you went, even 'before the press and the platform espoused them' enacting legislation with a boldness unsurpassed, maturing gigantic schemes with a thoroughness and efficiency unrivalled. If they say that you have built up new Travancore and new Cochin, Sir, you have built a new Madras in that you have been the father of the co-operative credit system. All communities, Muhammadans, Christians, non-Brahman Hindus and Brahmans, derived utmost benefit through your spontaneous efforts. Sir, I know many a non-Brahman family of this Presidency is under deep debt of gratitude to you to-day. In the early teens of this century non-Brahmans were mobilising their forces. At a later period when non-Brahmans were pressing for a non-Brahman Executive Council Member, especially a Muhammadan, and when your name was rumoured for that place the non-Brahman press and platform, even that virulent non-Brahman paper that existed then, 'The Non-Brahman', and the leader of the non-Brahmans then late Diwan Bahadur Karunakara Menon, all with one voice gave an unqualified support for the suggestion and when it was realized we all rejoiced in it.

" Now, Sir, we cannot conceive of this Council without you. It passes one's imagination to think that anybody else can replace you in the seat in which you are seated to-day. Sir, we will miss you in this House, where Reforms inaugurated were a success mostly due to your guidance. In this House, Sir, your nods and smiles inspired many a speaker to lengthen his speeches (laughter). This House resounded with acclamations when you gave wise rulings couched in most humorous expressions. Sir, in this House where your capacious intellect, broad heart, your quick grasp of the situation, your independent decision given on the spur of the moment without caring for the frowns or favour of anybody, your tact and talent, all excite our admiration. Sir, in this Council where hon. Members with eloquence and erudition, intellect and information, and position and power, popular democrats and privileged aristocrats all bowed their heads to your wise decisions.

" Sir, our only consolation is that you are going to discharge your duties for your country on a higher sphere of activities. What Madras and the Madras Legislative Council are to lose India will gain. I pray for your long life so that after your overseas service to your country you may return and enjoy a well-earned rest in this land which is yours and mine" (loud cheers).



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Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR :—“ Mr. President, I have much pleasure in supporting the Motion of the Leader of the House. I am sorry I am prevented by a cold from speaking at length ; but I cannot allow this occasion to pass without congratulating you on your most successful tenure of the first Presidentship of the First Reformed Council. To me it has not been surprising, knowing you as I have done from your boyhood and having watched you, as I have done, during your long career as a public servant. As President you have been very impartial, and, if I may say so without any presumption, you have not committed one single act of favouritism. You have not spared me even, though I have been your life-long friend.

“ You are bidding farewell to the service in India, but you are at the same time about to enter on another career of equal, if not higher, usefulness and I am sure you will in the position you will hold in the Council of the Secretary of State help us in improving our position here. I beg leave, as your oldest Friend, to wish you health and long life.”

4 p.m. Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ Sir, may I take the opportunity of associating myself with the previous speakers in the generous sentiments expressed this evening, sentiments of the loss which this House is bound to suffer on account of your absence and the sentiments of love and affection which you have created in the minds of one and all of us, of this great Assembly. Mr. President, Sir Tyagaraya Chettiyar, was telling you that, though he was a friend of yours from his earliest days, you did not show him a bit of favouritism, and of course you are of that type. Three or four years ago, when I was first acquainted with you, I said some things of you of which I was not proud in my after-life. You know, Sir, that not only did you not utter a single word of resentment, but you have extended universal kindness to me throughout in the true Christian fashion of showing kindness to my faults though they were unmeant and unintentional. (Applause.)

“ Mr. President, the ship of the Reformed Council, launched three years ago to find out its seaworthiness, perhaps in waters unknown, has been entrusted to you, and you have been asked to steer on this somewhat long and weary journey ; and before you took us to the first coaling station you were called upon to assume another office. But may I say that during this short period you have so far endeared and conducted yourself in such a manner that, as the hon. the Leader of the House has mentioned, you have shown in the small period all the esteemed qualities, qualities which are often praised in the Mother of Parliaments. As he has told this House, we had occasions on which some Members had to be snubbed—rebuked even—but the expression was so kindly and gently employed, and with that humour for which you are so famous, that the gentleman never felt it as a snub at all, but enjoyed it as much as anybody else in this House. Occasions there arose in this House in which complicated intricacies of procedure had to be discovered, and you gave a solution of them with the practised hand of an expert. In spite of the fact that you yourself were new to the Speaker's Chair and in spite of the fact that this House was called upon to enter into a scheme which was new not only to this Council but new perhaps to the whole world, —for this wonderful system of diarchy is unknown to the world—you have been able to take us through these three years in a manner and in a degree which perhaps no other Government and no other President has been able



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to achieve. The Leader of the House has described to this House the qualities which are praised in the mother of Parliaments and those qualities, viz.—

‘ ceaseless diligence and love of order in the management of Parliamentary business, the passing on from generation to generation of a tradition of unrepachable personal integrity and political impartiality and the amazing sagacity . . . ’

have all been your characteristic traits, traits which will go down to the posterity, to a grateful posterity, and I am sure your name will be writ large in the history of this country, for when the history of this country comes to be written it is the work of those who are associated with the earlier days of the working of this Reformed Council and who have played a large part in developing the progress of this country and its future Government that must find a prominent place in it. And you, Sir, have had a share in it and I am perfectly certain that when that history is written you will be known as the only one who lent a helping hand to the new Council for working its own salvation, of which any man can be proud and any nation can be proud. Sir, in that way you have done your duty and this great nation will always be grateful to you for the help you have rendered and for the assistance you have given.” (Applause.)

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and by all the previous speakers. It is difficult to speak, Sir, without feeling on the many characteristics that you possess and which have made the last Legislative Council and the present one a great success, and especially difficult it is when we come to speak in the presence of one whose many qualities we admire so much. I say frankly that when we shall meet in January under the new President the universal feeling will be that expressed by the Persian poet:

‘ Irani indeed is gone with all its rose  
And Jamshyd's seven-ringed cup where no one knows.’

“ Sir, it is no reflection upon your successors, whether they be nominated Presidents or Presidents elected by this House, when I say that for a long time to come we shall not have another President with a quality which has endeared him to us all (applause). Sir, the Speaker is supposed to be above all political parties. In fact, the tradition in the House of Commons goes to such an extent that when a Speaker is elected—no doubt from one of the great political parties—he has even to stop attending the political club of which he is a member.

“ Sir, I do not think anybody will deny that in the presidential chair you have acted above all parties. You have been thoroughly neutral to parties and parties' passions and you have shown your independence to a degree which has commanded the confidence of all sections of this House. Whether it is the Leader of the House or whether it is a humble back-bencher like myself, we have had your unfailing courtesy extended to us and your helping hand to guide us through the debate.

“ Sir, the great art that a Speaker must possess is the masterly way in which he has his eyes upon the various Members when the debate is going on. Sir, very often the Speaker would be carried away by the debate. You are, Sir, an ideal Speaker who can turn his eyes upon every individual in the House so that even if one Member should have been unnoticed previously he would be allowed to speak when he catches your eye. That, Sir, is the tradition



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which we wish to firmly establish and it is not always that a particular Member ought to be heard, but it is more often that a nervous speaker that should be called upon to speak.

"Sir, as President of the Legislative Council you have given us a lead in parliamentary practice which no other President I am sure has given. We in the Madras Legislative Council have established parliamentary forms and traditions which, long after you have ceased to act in the presidential chair, will be the guiding principle of all Presidents who will come hereafter. Your masterly exposition of points of order confounding Law Members and pleaders rich in parliamentary practice and tradition has been a marvel to us all. In later years when a Parliamentary Committee comes forth to judge the fitness of Indians for full responsible Government, if they were to take the work of the President of this Legislative Council into consideration and judge solely from that work, I am perfectly certain that there is not a single subject which we have not transacted without success and there shall not be a single responsibility which we shall not be in a position to discharge. Sir, I heartily associate myself with all the sentiments that have been expressed in this House."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I claim it as a privilege to associate myself with all the feelings that have been expressed on this occasion by my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, and all others who have spoken before me. Having had the opportunity to be associated with you in the work of the Legislative Council even before the Reformed Constitution, I find it difficult to give adequate expression to the admiration and love which you have evoked from all sections of the people ever since your entry into the Council even as Judicial Secretary. I remember that even from the time when you were sitting on the official benches and propounding various questions of policy you were able to strike our admiration in a manner which is indescribable. It is not to me a matter for surprise that you have by your conduct as President of the Legislative Council won the admiration and gratitude of all sections of people not in this Presidency alone, but all over India. Well, I mean no disparagement to all hon. Presidents of other Legislatures of India. I feel it my duty to indicate, Sir, my impression that you have brought credit to the whole of India and it is admitted on all hands that you have managed the Council in such a way that you have been termed as one of the best and ablest Presidents in India. (Applause.)

"Sir, after a year or two of your conduct as President of this Council you have been in a position to manage it with such high sense of justice and such high tone of impartiality, that if you were able to bring in the course of discussion such wit and humour as make the proceedings far more lively and interesting, as it has been, it is a trait in your character which all those who knew you before should have been able to recognize. I am now reminded, Sir, on this occasion, as to your wonderful powers of debate which you evinced in the Council before. Even as a Member of the Executive Council when the City Municipal Bill was on the legislative anvil and when the late Dr. Nayar was also appointed as one of the expert Members of the Council, I know what a controversy we had, what a stormy discussion we had on so many questions which came before the Council. On the last day when a motion was made by you that the Bill be passed into Law I remember that most of those in the Opposition were inclined to oppose the passing of that measure into Law. Your



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vigorous defence and your wonderful powers of debates and the way in which for over one and a half hours you kept up the whole of this Council in rapt admiration over the various points in the Municipal Bill convinced most of those who were sitting in the Opposition benches with the result that they gave way and supported the passing of the Bill into Law. Sir, those were the wonderful powers even while you were in office. It is no matter for surprise to me that you have captivated, rather fascinated us all by your conduct as President during these three years, and we find it extremely difficult to part company with you. Sir, it is not easy to give adequate expression for those who have begun to entertain feelings of love and affection owing to long association with you at such a time of parting company. More than that, Sir, I have my sympathy and pity for the future Presidents of this Council.

4-15 p.m. " My heart goes forth to them as to the difficulties which they may have to encounter the moment they assume office. You have set before us all such a high ideal of presidentship that it will be difficult for any ordinary person to follow hereafter, but our only consolation is that during this period of three years you have set such an example that whoever happens to take your place, it will be enough for him to follow that noble example. If it is necessary for us to bid you farewell as the hon. President of this Council, it is at least a matter of satisfaction that in another sphere you will be able to watch our destinies and take us nearer and nearer to the promised goal. As every one is aware we are having very serious misgivings and misapprehensions about the future progress of the Reforms in this country. We have felt that in some directions the clouds have been thickening and the bright hopes which we entertained are not the same as before. It is at the most opportune moment, Sir, that it has been your privilege to take your place in the Council of the Secretary of State. This is just the time, the transition period when we, all, friends and lovers of India, expect you to do your utmost, to rise to the occasion and to take India forward nearer and nearer towards full responsible Government. If we have feelings of regret that we have to part company, we are also glad at the same time that just at the time when the help of such friends and lovers of India are needed you are taken to a sphere where you can render valuable service to our motherland."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Mr. President, Sir, it is a unique privilege which I enjoy this afternoon of speaking on a Motion made by the hon. the Leader of the House, supported by the hon. the Leader of the Ministerial party which, I know, will be carried unanimously by every section of this House. It has not been my privilege so far and I do not expect it is going to be my privilege in the future and therefore I enjoy it all the more as being a unique occasion in the history of my life in this Council. I say it is a privilege to associate myself with my friends on the other side of the House most whole-heartedly with this Resolution expressing our warm appreciation of the distinguished services you have rendered to this House and through this House to the country which I know you love so well, in discharging the high functions of the office which you have been holding. More than that, Sir, I have great pleasure in associating myself with every word which fell from the lips of the hon. the Leader of the House. It was a most eloquent speech delivered—it is in that manner that such speeches must be delivered, if I may say so respectfully, with passion restrained, with affection which was obvious, as the words came from his lips. And I have



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great pleasure to say that both in the matter and in the manner in which this motion was made, my heart has been touched and it goes forth to you, Sir, as expressing our warm feelings of affection and gratitude for all that you have been and all that you have done to us. You came to this House, Sir, with great disabilities. As the hon. the Leader of the House said, you had been a bureaucrat all your life, and it was Dr. Johnson who once said, 'you can make something even of a Scotchman if you catch him young'; and after seeing you, Sir, in this chair, I began to think that we can make something even of a bureaucrat (laughter). But more than that your second great disability has been that you had to preside over a House which has no parallel in the history of the world. Where, in the world, Sir, have you got a Treasury Bench one half of which belongs to the Reserved Half, and the other half represents the Transferred Half, nominated officials, nominated non-officials, Ministers and Executive Councillors not required to support one another by speech or by vote, but only to sit side by side and not oppose each other in public? In addition to the nominated non-officials there are, at least five distinct political parties—Ministerialists, Progressive Non-Brahmans, Independent Nationalists, Muhammadans and Swarajists. Surely, it is a combination to tax the most astute intellect of the stoniest heart and yet you have met them all in a way that it seemed the more awkward and the greater the difficulties you had to face, the more alert and the more resourceful your brain became. (Applause.)

"Sir, more than that, you had to work a system of diarchy which, as my friends have already said has no parallel in the world. Sir, I may say with absolute sincerity and realizing the value of every word that I use that your Presidentship of this Council has been an unqualified success. (Applause.) I may say that first and foremost you have been most sincerely anxious to assert the dignity and the privileges of this House. After all is said and done, there is this thing to be said about the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms that they have created large legislatures with elected majorities which if only they are organised properly and the powers given thereunder are wisely used, even these Councils can be used as a field for the struggle for Swaraj. (Cheers.) Therefore, Sir, you were anxious to assert from the very beginning the privileges, the authority and the dignity of this House. You watched them with a jealous eye and never yielded to any other consideration in the discharge of the onerous and anxious duties you had to discharge.

"The second great quality which you have brought to bear upon the discharge of your duties is your thorough impartiality. Sir, it is very difficult to be impartial in a House of this kind, because it is very difficult for human nature not to give way to human weaknesses, but you have risen above them all in a most magnificent manner; and in every ruling you have given, every order you have made and in the way in which you have conducted the debate, you have shown that before you every Member is the equal of every other Member in this House and that no Member has more privileges than others, or less rights and less privileges than others; and if you have sometimes rebuked us on this side of the House, I may say, in no spirit of mischief, and you will pardon me for that, you have also rebuked those on the other side of the House. (Laughter and applause.)



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"Sir, the last and the greatest quality which has made the proceedings of this House not only dignified but also attractive to some of us who have come here for the first time, is your keen gift of alertness and your keener sense of humour. Nothing happens here of which you are not at once aware, and, in difficult corners you rounded them off with such wellmeant jokes that not only the House laughed but the victim also laughed. It is the greatest gift which any man can possess and which you have brought to bear on the discharge of your duties.

"Reference has been made to the fact that when the history of India comes to be written, your name will find a conspicuous and important place there. I echo that sentiment, and in doing so I only want to quote two sentences from a great writer on the Speakers of the House of Commons, who says thus :

'Politicians and parties may come and go, changes may and must occur in the aims and aspirations of the democracy of England (I will say, of the democracy of India), but the Speaker's office unfettered by the exigencies of party and administered in a lofty and impartial spirit will endure as long as the Constitution itself.'

"This has been the characteristic of your policy which, I am sure, will endure as long as the Indian Constitution itself. Within the last three years, Sir, you have brought to bear on the discharge of your duties here such a wealth of information, such an amount of dignity and, above all, such a keen sense of humour that you have built up traditions which, if they are only kept up by your successors, they need no more. As a Swarajist and as belonging to a party which has been and which continues to be misrepresented, I would like to pay this humble tribute of respect for the way in which you have understood our aims and aspirations, if I may say so, and for the way in which you have dealt with us. I know this that the time will soon come, however much our friends here may laugh at the prospect, that for the nine Swarajists we have now here, there will be 90 at the next elections. (Laughter) Sir, when that time comes, I ask for no more than this, that we should have in that Chair a man who will bring to bear on the discharge of his duties the same impartiality of conduct and the same independent judgment which you have brought to bear upon them.

"With these few words, I have great pleasure in associating myself with this Motion. I will only say with regard to your future, that wherever you are and whatever you may do, the affection and the blessings of your friends in this country will follow you (prolonged cheers). I may say in the words of the Sanskrit poet: शिवास्तु ते पन्थानः सन्तु ।"

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"Mr. President, I rise with feelings of regret, with feelings of sorrow and with feelings of joy: regret because, after a long and honourable association with us lasting for three years, you are leaving our midst: joy because you are leaving our shores to take up a very high office in a strange and foreign land. I am sure, from that country, England, where human liberty has taken root and has spread to other parts of the world and under whose branches we are flourishing, you will continue to evince to the Madras Council the same affectionate interest which you have evinced till now.

"Sir, your personality, your humour and your persuasive eloquence which command the respect and admiration of every Member of this House, are all combinations which could not be found in any other Presidency in the whole of India. So much so, Sir, you are the ablest President of all the Legislatures of India. (Applause.)



[Mr. Abbas Ali Khan]

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"Sir, generations after when the historians come to write a book similar to the 'Speakers of the House of Commons', your name as the first President of the Reformed Council of Madras, will appear in it as a proud example for the coming generations to follow and to emulate.

"Sir, I may remind you of a joke that I played on you. When I first came to this Council three years ago, you appeared to be severe towards the younger Members of the House that 'the Hindu' likened you to a school-master who with his stentorian voice, kept the boys in their seats, and we were inclined to take a mischievous view of it all. That treatment was so revolting to us that we wanted to play a practical joke upon you. So, Sir, when the Members of this House gave a tea party to His Excellency Lord Willingdon, you will remember you gave a most interesting speech. After the lapse of about five minutes, I got hold of your bell, through the courtesy of Mr. Swamikannu Pillai, and rung it which interrupted you in the midst of your speech. (Laughter.) Sir, after that you have never enforced the time limit and you have been giving us a certain amount of free play which, I hope, your successors would always extend to us.

"Sir, you have always shown great kindness and courtesy to the Muhammadan members of this House and rescued us from many a complicated situation. May I, Sir, as an example of this kindness, remind members of the excellent way in which you saved us from a situation, a very awkward situation in which the Muhammadan members were placed a few days ago by an amendment to a Resolution of Mr. Khalif-ul-lah? Sir, on that occasion you saved us by a very tactful and statesmanlike suggestion. For this and for many more like this, we are very thankful to you.

4-30 p.m. "Sir, I do not want to mar the effects of the thrilling oration which we have heard from speaker after speaker, but I wish to do my humble best and I have great pleasure in supporting the motion that has been so ably and eloquently moved by the hon. the Leader of the House. And I hope, Sir, that you will be spared for long and that you will have very many years of rest and quiet before you, so that you may bring to bear on the new office the same erudition, the same courtesy of manner and the same precision that you have always shown in this House."

Mr. A. J. LEECH :—"Mr. President, I should like to join my voice in appreciation of your work done here and I may assure you that I am voicing the feeling of the European non-official Members of this House. We regret your departure, but our loss is India's gain, and we cannot regret it on that account. I have only been in this House for one year, but I have been very much impressed at the way in which you have conducted it through the intricacies of the debate and the humour and tact you have shown in doing so. It is said that a good fish in the sea has never been caught yet. In this House a good deal of doubt has been expressed as to where the good fish is to come from. Sir, you were one of those who even when refusing a request did so in a happy manner and the refusal was accepted with greater pleasure than would be the case even if it were acceded to. It is all your manner that makes the difference. I would like to associate myself with all those who spoke on the Motion and wish you all fortune in your new work."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"In this great valedictory function in honour of the much-respected and talented President of this Council, Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., who sits for the last



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[Mr. C. Gopala Menon]\

time to-day as the Speaker of this House, I crave permission to have the privilege of adding my humble tribute of appreciation of his great career to those that have already been paid to him in the most eloquent terms by some of the hon. Members of this Council. The previous speakers have started a general chorus of well-deserved praise to him, each one dwelling on that aspect of our hon. the President's work as impressed him most or suited his particular angle of vision. But mine is a distinctive duty on behalf of my constituency, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, which I wish to perform to the best of my lights. Though I have not had the privilege of close intimacy or long friendship with our revered President, yet as a humble admirer of his genius, versatility, rare tact and the resourceful driving power he has brought to bear on the work of this new Council in the opening sessions of its career, my humble tribute is none the less warm. Unlike the past Council, the present Council is a complex composition, a body made out of diverse political parties of elected members, and to control the humours of the fray and guide the debates of such heterogeneous elements is a most trying and herculean task indeed. From the little I have seen our President's work after my connexion with this Council, I am led to hold him as the greatest asset of this House and we could ill-afford to lose his marvellous services just at this critical period of the existence of this Council. Tact has been the outstanding qualification of Sir Rajagopala Achariyar which has crowned his long and varied career in the public service with signal success. Whether as a Member of the Provincial Civil Service, as the doyen of the co-operative movement or as the Diwan of two important Native States or as Secretary to Government or as a Member of the Executive Council, he has been singularly successful and extremely popular with all classes and creeds. His sympathies know no geographical or race limitations and equipped with such invaluable qualities of the head and the heart he came to be our Mr. Speaker, the reins of which exalted and onerous office he is laying down to-day to the great regret of us all; but our only consolation is, what is loss to this Council is re-appearing as gain to us in the Council of the Secretary of State for India where his ripe experience and knowledge of affairs and sturdy independence and unrivalled tact will serve him, I am sure, in excellent stead in fighting our cause. Illustrious indeed is the muster-roll of those great Indian patriots who, after consecrating their lives to the service of this country, have earned an undying glory in the memory of the Indian nation. Sir Rajagopala Achariyar belongs to this glorious category and the prayers of his grateful countrymen attend him in his new career in England again for our benefit. Gentlemen, parting in this case is such sweet sorrow that I shall reluctantly say 'good-bye' until it be to-morrow. I wish him God-speed in the new exalted office which he is called upon to fill and I offer my humble prayers to heaven to bless Sir Rajagopala Achariyar with long life, robust health and successful career for the benefit of the land of his birth."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, may I be permitted to add my tribute of humble praise on this occasion? Sir, your fairness, your firmness, that characteristic of being ever wide awake has rendered the success of this Council more than that of any other Council in India. Sir, on occasions when feeling ran high in this House, when, as it were, the atmosphere was surcharged with controversy, occasions which gave rise to Motions for adjournment of the House, your rulings on points of order and on the privileges of Members to speak freely and frankly about the acts and



[Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiya]

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omissions of various parties have made you the most outstanding feature in this distinguished assembly. Sir, your way whether at the instance of the rich or of the poor, of the high or the low, have been marked only by a sense of fairness and justice, and the latest instance of it is the ruling which you gave yesterday when claims were made on behalf of His Excellency for the prerogative of making high appointments. Your ruling is bound to be of value not only to this Council but to Councils all over India, for your ruling would have cut at the root of all responsible Government if it was not what it had been yesterday. Not merely the Members of this Council, but members of all Councils and citizens of the whole of this British Indian Empire must be thankful to you. Sir, we shall be missing your guiding hand, but we hope that your successors will inherit those good qualities of yours which have made for the success of this Council, and that they may administer the affairs of this Council in the same manner in which you have done. Sir, under the Reforms Act it was intended that the President of the Council shall be chosen by the Members themselves, but for the first four years it shall be by the nomination of His Excellency the Governor. Who can say that the choice of His Excellency has not been fully justified by the success which has attended this Council under your presidency, Sir? On one occasion Lord Curzon said when he was congratulated on being appointed the Viceroy of India, 'the occasion for congratulation is not when one dons the armour but when one doffs it'. I do not believe that Lord Curzon had that privilege of receiving congratulations when he laid down the office. But, Sir, you have it to-day (loud cheers). Sir, in spite of your past record as a bureaucrat and an official you have succeeded beyond all expectations, in a measure which we did not anticipate at the time of your assuming office. Sir, with these words I wish you God-speed. I only wish to say, Sir, while you are going away from this Council you are only going to another sphere where you shall be of as much usefulness to your King and country and your countrymen here. With these words, I heartily associate myself with the Mover of the Resolution."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, Sir, I feel thankful for allowing me to associate myself with all the fine sentiments that have been expressed by the previous speakers. Sir, my contact with you began in the year 1915 when you were in the role of a bureaucrat, and in spite of my great admiration for your great intellect I was always feeling that you did not cast your lot for the nation but chose to cast your lot with the bureaucrats. It was rumoured in the press at the time when the Reformed Council was coming into being that you would be appointed President of the new Council, and then I with some others had my own doubts as to the fitness of the choice. Some time thence it was said that Sir Sankaran Nayar, who just then resigned his Membership of the Imperial Council, would be appointed as President. Some of us had our own feelings in the matter. These are confessions, Sir. But when we came into the new Council some of us did watch you with suspicion. After the Council worked for a month or two, all our suspicions were gone, and we did feel completely that you had thrown off your official cloak and assumed the real role of a non-official. Our admiration for you as President of this Council day by day increased. We have nothing but all admiration for the splendid manner in which you discharged the duties of a President. We felt always that one feeling did animate you in giving decisions for the occasion, that you had the future of this House and the future of the nation before you. If this House had made up precedents of a far-reaching character, it was on account of your high eminence and your



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intellectual and other qualities. And we have every one of us felt your decisions as very impartial and we always admired the fitness of your decisions and the way in which you were able to control the House. Though you were sitting silent, you were guiding the deliberations by the various changing phases of your face. And it was always taken by some of us as the true index of real guidance. Sir, I don't want to depreciate in any way the merits of our Deputy President or of the panel of chairmen that have occupied the chair from time to time. But they will be pleased to permit me to mention that myself and others did feel the absence of yourself from the chair on many occasions. If that was the case in the past, you may easily understand what our misgivings are as to the future of this House. I hope the great pains you have taken in establishing great precedents will be of valuable guidance to your followers not only here but all over India, in setting up very desirable Parliamentary methods in this House as well as elsewhere."

4-45 p.m. Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Mr. President, Sir, in trying to estimate and realize the loss which will be caused by . . . ."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN :—" May I rise to a point of order, Sir? I do not hear the hon. Member (laughter). "

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" your approaching departure from these shores, one naturally tries to think of the difficulties with which you were faced when you entered upon your duties. As a result of our being the heirs of the ages of English constitutional history we have been here endowed with a fairly well defined constitution and a ready-made procedure, so that you, Sir, have not had to face the difficulties and go through the experiences which Speakers of the House of Commons have had to face and go through. Yours, for instance, was not the experience of that Speaker of the English House of Commons in March 1629 when the famous Resolutions called the Eliot Resolutions were passed, and the Speaker had to be kept down by main force in his Chair by two doughty Members of the House forcing him down into a position from which he wanted to extricate himself. Again, Sir, yours was not the experience of the Speaker in 1642, when he found the House of Commons raided by Charles I who wanted to find Pym and others, the five inconvenient Members of the House of Commons. It was on this occasion, Sir, that Speaker Lenthall uttered the famous saying that

' the Speaker of the House of Commons had neither eyes to see nor ears to hear nor tongue to speak but as the House was pleased to direct ',

and in so many words the Speaker told the King to go about his business. Nor again, Sir, was yours the unfortunate experience of that other Speaker of the Stuart reign who complained that an hon. Member of the House, instead of taking off his hat to him, had put out his tongue and snapped his fingers at him. (Laughter) Your difficulties and your experiences have been entirely different. Probably, the most important and the most serious difficulty with which you were faced was that when you took up the presidentship of the new Reformed Council, you found a Council of a very heterogenous character and of a non-descript kind before you. It was a Council which had no soul in it, and into which no life had been breathed. There was of course the party system, but no party however well organized it may be can give life to the Council. It is the President and it is the President alone that gives that life, and it is the President that can give an assembly its soul. It was you, Sir, that from the beginning, by an exhibition of the greatest qualities of leadership and of presidentship, gave a soul to the Reformed



[Mr. M. Ratnaswami]

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Legislative Council by binding the members of the various parties and sections into one with the silken cords of a loyal though insistent obedience to your most efficient leadership. I may confess, Sir, that I myself, as also many hon. Members of this House and many outside the House, had an apprehension as to how you would conduct yourself in your position. You came to this Chair with a great reputation as a successful bureaucrat. It is customary to speak of a man who has done well in a career of a lifetime that he is an old hand at the game. But what are we to say of you, Sir, who seem to be an old hand at every new game? You have not been born under the shadow of the Speaker's Chair, but you seem to have been a born President.

"Many of your achievements as President of this Legislative Council have been already referred to. May I, Sir, as a private Member contribute one more to the list, and that is your defence of the rights of the private Member. In many of your decisions on points of order, I seemed to detect, in fact, a partiality for the private Member, and a defence of the privileges of minorities. (Hear, hear.) On many an occasion, Sir, if I may say so, without offence, I detected in your decisions leading questions or suggestions that seemed to give the private Member a clue as to what he should do in order to keep down the pretensions of the Members of the Government Front Bench. (Laughter and cheers.)

"In bidding you farewell, Sir, we cannot lose sight of the great duties and obligations that lie in wait for you in England, where you are going as a Member of the Secretary of State's Council. We can trust you, Sir, to give the Members of that Council a bit of your mind, and from all accounts they require it very badly. And I hope, Sir, that having been in living touch with the feelings and aspirations of this Assembly, you will give those sundried bureaucrats a bit of our mind. In conclusion, Sir, allow me to wish you God-speed, good luck and frequent returns to the country of your birth."

Rao Bahadur P. RAMAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of the Thiyyar community to which I belong and which I have the honour to represent in this Council, I beg leave to thank you most respectfully and sincerely for the very great sympathy you have always shown to my community and for the deep interest you have always taken in its welfare and advancement. May God grant you long life, happiness and prosperity is our humble and earnest prayer. I assure you, Sir, that this prayer and the gratitude of my community will always accompany you wherever you go."

Mr. P. V. GOPALAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, while associating myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. the Leader of this House and other hon. Members, I, on behalf of the fisherman community, most respectfully beg to thank you, Sir, for the very kind sympathy you have evinced on our behalf, ever since you came in touch with them, by recommending to appoint one of them as a sub-magistrate for the first time and opportunity, one of them as a gazetted officer and nominating two of them as municipal councillors. All these are the outcome of your broad and liberal heart and the sympathy you have for the backward and the depressed classes. While you were in Malabar as a Revenue Divisional Officer, I remember, many of us were considering you as the redeemer of the down-trodden. I, Sir, on behalf of my community, wish you a bright future, good health, happiness and prosperity in your new sphere of life. With these few words, I have very great pleasure in supporting the Motion which has been made by the hon. the Leader of the House."



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MR. R. SRINIVASAN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of the depressed classes, I beg to convey our sincere gratitude to you for the courtesy and sympathy you have always shown towards us. For the last three years I have been attending this Council and watching its proceedings, and whenever the question of the depressed classes came, I have always found you to have been just and impartial. I understand, Sir, that you are leaving this Council to take up the appointment of a Member of the India Council in England, and it is our hope that while there you will always remember the depressed and oppressed classes and continue to take your usual deep interest in them. I request you, Sir, to do all in your power to uplift this unfortunate community, the untouchables, of whom so much is talked and about whom movements are set on foot, and remove untouchability—for Swaraj depends on the removal of untouchability.”

MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, in you I meet a familiar personality which I have long ago begun to admire and love, but the subject on which we are assembled to address you to-day is, however, a most unfamiliar one. When I rise to do my duty of associating myself with what has already been said on this Motion, the most obsessing sense, namely, that of envy, comes upon me. There are here, Sir, Members who, to use the simile of my hon. Friend Mr. Abbas Ali Khan, have been your pupils for over three years. I remember having read in the papers of that time how even the hon. the First Minister had to be taught by you that for supplementary questions time could be asked for, and I enjoyed it, and all the world enjoyed it. Many people, especially myself, have had the advantage of taking lessons from you only for the last few weeks. But, I have known you, Sir, as a judge, in which capacity rising above technicalities, you meted out substantial justice. I say that, Sir, because where technicalities would have sent many a man to the gallows, they were grateful to you for your having saved their lives. We also know, Sir, how as Co-operative Registrar you came to know not only the people but you felt for the people and oftentimes you lived like the poor. I remember very well how, in trying to persuade the people of a far-off village in the Chingleput district, you had to take shelter on a pial, and even though in a neighbouring temple *pongal* was being distributed you went starving. Therefore, Sir, you know at first hand how the poor live. And long after your retirement your work on behalf of Co-operation will be a standing monument of your life and your work for the people. I know also how when you became Member of the Executive Council the ship of local self-government was steered. I may also give a short story current at that time as to how on one occasion a zamindar member of a local board objected to a member belonging to the depressed classes sitting by his side or in the same body, and how you ran to that village and showed your sympathy for the depressed classes. Therefore, Sir, every department that was for the time being entrusted to you was managed in such a sympathetic and efficient manner.

“ As Diwan, Sir, the House can recall to mind the amount of unpopularity  
5 p.m. you had to face at one time and how the newspapers went against you, and how you calmly faced it. But those very people who criticized you then are blessing you now. That is due to the soundness of your views and the statesmanship you brought to bear in the discharge of your many duties.

“ If now on this Proposition so many people from all parts of the House are united and are coming forward in unusually large numbers to speak, it is



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because, Sir, of those humane qualities and that strong sense of humour which have so eminently characterized you and which have ever stood you in good stead; and I am sure those very qualities will equally stand you in good stead in the higher sphere of work on which you are about to enter. I do not want to call it 'higher' because I do not think any other sphere can be higher than that occupied by one who is presiding over the destinies of this House. Moreover, Sir, we are all glad that you are going to a sphere where services of people like you are now most needed. There are imperial questions which are casting a gloomy shadow upon this land, such, for instance, as questions connected with Kenya and South Africa (a voice: 'and the reduction of the impost')—yes, I add, the reduction of the impost also—and although you are leaving us, you will be doing us substantial service in those important branches of work in the far-off land. But there is only one thing, and that is, there might be some difficulty in reconciling ourselves to the fact that you, Sir, in your old age, should undertake this long journey. But I may be permitted to tell the House that Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose has shown to us how even an aged and weathered tree can be transplanted, and my only prayer is that the same tree, even though it becomes more weathered, should be retransplanted once more to its own native soil, and I may promise you, Sir, even a grander welcome when you come back to us.

“With these few words, I heartily support the Motion.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“Sir, I have been hearing the words of admiration and thankfulness expressed by Member after Member with considerable feelings of regret. The hon. the Leader of the House has expressed our sentiments, as every one present here will admit, in a beautiful form and expressed with force and warmth. I thought he was for once transformed into a Swarajist when he was giving you praise for conducting the proceedings of this House with great impartiality and also for taking us along the path of that great liberty leading to the realization of Responsible Government. We are really grateful to the Leader of the House for his whole-hearted speech.

“I have considered myself to have been very fortunate indeed in having lived under your shadow, Sir, as the Deputy President of this House, during the last three years, and I am personally beholden to you, Sir, very deeply. Of course, I have known you for years together; but I have known you mostly as a public man. I lived in a far-off village in the interior part of a district, and so I could not come in contact with bigger folks very closely; I could only watch them from a distance. I have been always watching you with very great admiration. It so happened that I was enabled to come in contact with you more intimately only during the last three years, and I have felt your kindness very deeply. I remember very well, Sir, when I was about to be sent over to British Guiana at the age of 62, that I needed somebody's blessings for that. Of course, I had somehow plucked up courage to go at this age, and you gave me that blessing not only in the speech in this House, which I would ever treasure up, but also in your private capacity as a Brahman. You did not make any difference between man and man, between caste and caste, or between members of the lower class and members of the higher class. That is indeed the true quality of a Brahman. I think it was, Sir, mainly through your blessings that I came back here to be again elected Vice-President with the unanimous voice of my hon. Friends in this House. Sir, my Friend Mr. Narasimha Raju said that he felt your absence



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when some of us sat there. That is exactly so. Mr. T. P. O'Connor once said that the House of Commons was sometimes like a boys' school and sometimes like a girls' school, and it required strong men, like you, Sir, to keep it in order. It is but natural that monitors should feel very nervous in the presence of such stalwarts like my hon. Friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju, and I have myself felt your absence also on occasions (laughter). Sir, you have throughout kept up your good humour. I am told that it is a rare quality peculiar to the British race, but I am sure you will make them realize that they were rather mistaken in their conceit. When you go there and meet them, they will be very glad to see and enjoy your good humour and that in such an abundance. I am sure Sir Charles Todhunter will support me in my view that among our men also we have such rare gems who possess that good humour which is so helpful to do good work. Of course, he did not claim that trait as a special characteristic of his own race. I am sure, Sir, your good humour, your tact and your knowledge of human nature will win for you many more friends in England. I am hopeful and confident you are going to render very great service to us, and it is only in that belief that we can console ourselves in your absence from this country. It is very well known how at times when there was clash of interests between different individuals in this House, you were able by your good humour and by your impartiality to still all strifes and bring them back to a good sense of humour. It is said of course that there were no scenes in this House at all. We hear of so many scenes in the mother of Parliaments, but there have been no scenes in this new Council. With all the Swarajists and with all sorts of elements present here, everything went on in order."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"It is not our fault, Sir." (Laughter).

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"What does that show, Sir? It shows that all hon. Members here belong to the same gentle race. They are not likely to fight with their fists. They would exchange hot words; and at times they would be very acrimonious in the remarks; but I am sure it is the characteristic of the Indian race that they are a people naturally genial in their manners, though sometimes harsh in their expressions, and we have in this House some of the best specimens of our race.

"You will kindly permit me, Sir, to make one or two more remarks. I have been in the Legislative Council under Lord Cross' Act, and again I have been in the Legislative Council under Lord Morley's Act. Then the Chairman was His Excellency the Governor of the time. He came to the House with all the gubernatorial authority and took the Chair. Then the Members had a good deal of trepidation to express themselves. It was not always very easy to most of us to express our feelings straight because we were afraid of the Governor in the Chair lest we would be offending the dignity of the Governor, and it might be that our conduct might be taken notice of by the district authorities who were all Governor's men. Hence, not only there was not always the true expression of our opinions, but sometimes there was a good deal of the suppression of our feelings. But, Sir, in this Council His Excellency the Governor has very wisely chosen to appoint you as its first President. You came with all the bureaucratic traditions. You had held power. You have used it for the benefit of the people and for the uplift of many poor classes of men. That I know. But with all that, I thought your judgment might be warped by the past traditions and the past way in which you conducted yourself as an official, as one of the other side,



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But, Sir, you have been able to shed all those things. You have been able to clear yourself from all such entanglements and you have rather more or less proved a true friend and philosopher of the new Council. This is the transitional period; you are, as it were, a link between the past and the future. Hereafter the Speaker of this House will be elected from among its own Members who will at once be the servant of the House and who will control its Members with their consent. But, here, you have the authority behind you of His Excellency the Governor, and yet, Sir, the great quality of yours was that you associated yourself with all the Members of your Council as if you were one of them. That is a great credit, I think, for which we have to be thankful to His Excellency Lord Willingdon for having appointed you to this House. Sir, as I said, I am very fortunate because so great a statesman like you has been to most of us so good a friend. Every one claims to have received benefits from you. Many families are indebted to you and many public men are also indebted to you for the help you have given them. I do not know if there is another person in this Presidency who could claim such a large number of people who would feel grateful to you for the help you have given them, for the advice you have given them and for the many benefits you have conferred on them and on their children.

"I beg to support the Motion with all my heart and you will carry our best wishes and prayers in your new task."

5-15 p.m. Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—Mr. President, we must thank the Leader of the House for having on this occasion portrayed the unanimous feeling of this Council with such complete fulness and accuracy. The fact, Sir, is that there is nothing more at all to add to the very admirable statement in which he gave expression to the mingled feelings and sentiment with which we have now met on this occasion. We have to bid an official farewell, and though we all know that you are going to another sphere from which you will be able to serve the interests of your country even better than you have done so far, and though there is much in this translation to England which we have to rejoice in both on account of your personal and your physical comfort and the interests of the country at large, still on the whole the feeling on this occasion is one of sorrow at the separation. The Motion moved by the Leader of the House refers to the respect and esteem in which you have been held—I don't know if I could ask you to suspend any standing order to move an amendment—and I would certainly add affection. For there is no exaggeration in saying that you have been to us something more than a mere President, almost the presiding genius of this Council Chamber, who advised us, guided us, and saw to it that both as individuals and as Members of this Council we maintained the highest possible goal and level. Your presiding over this Council is a responsible and difficult task and you have become a genius as it were. That is a thing that is not going to be given to every one who occupies that position. It has been said that strict impartiality is a very difficult thing. I think I am voicing the feelings of all here when I say that whatever may be said by way of criticism or disparagement about this or that act, there is but one feature, namely, that you have been the one undoubted success of diarchy, not merely in this Presidency, but in the whole of India. This scheme is a difficult one, and it could not have been worked to the extent to which it has been without the rulings of the President which, as it were, gave flesh and blood to the discussions. My hon. Friends on both sides of the House have said a great deal about the qualities that you have brought to bear to the discharge of your high duties and the reasons



15th December 1923] [Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi]

for the great triumph that you have achieved as President of this Chamber. I do not intend to embark on an analysis of it on my own account; but it has struck me, as it has struck many other people, that the key to your career both as President and in your various other capacities might be found in that broad human sympathy which is so predominant a feature in you, Sir. It is that which explains that historic order by which you threw open all Government and public schools for the entry of people regarded by the orthodox as untouchable. It is that which explains how—no matter in whatever situation you are placed, with what people you are brought face to face—you succeeded in a very short time in winning their confidence and affection; and your rulings which are going to be the traditions of the future were all conceived in that broad human sympathy, and not in that narrow pedantic legal spirit. It is said that rules exist for the Councils but the Councils do not exist for the rules. Sir, this ship of diarchy has taken its trial run under your captainship and I do not know if an abler skipper could have been found. You must have by now examined it and judged as to how far it is seaworthy whether it is fitted as a fairweather ship or it might stand changing weather amidst squalls and storms. At all events, so far, we have had no official indication of your opinion. But this we in Madras could make ourselves perfectly certain about that so far as human factors and human elements could be responsible for the success of the scheme they have been abundantly supplied both by His Excellency and my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, and above all—I don't say it in a mere spirit of comparison—by you as President of the Chamber. Sir, it is very difficult to speak on an occasion of this kind, because much might be said by way of a review of your work, still it is not the reasoning faculty that is at present predominant but rather our feelings, this sense of separation and a kind of apprehension, whether well or ill-founded, as to how this Council will get on without you. The one question that every hon. Member is asking himself on this occasion is perhaps this: can that chair be what it is without you, whom we have now come to regard as part of that chair, as part of the institution almost? Wise precedents have been laid down, but that genial personality, I suppose, is a thing which we cannot always command at our will. The answer that comes at the present moment is one that is charged with pessimism, and I do hope that events will falsify our apprehensions. Speaking perhaps as the one who speaks last on this occasion, I would like to express on behalf of all the Members of this Council our unanimous gratitude for all the love and kindness which you showed to us both as individuals and as Members of this House for the wise guidance you have given us and above all for the courage and dignity with which you have maintained the liberties of this Council with which are bound up our constitutional liberties. We wish you every success in your new walk of life and we know that whatever career you enter upon you will succeed completely and in wishing you that success we will always request you, whether officially or unofficially, to keep yourself in touch with us and continue to be the mentor and the friend that you have always been to the Council, to the Members here, and to this Presidency." (Loud cheers).

The Motion was put and carried amidst thunderous applause.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution be recorded as having been agreed to *nemine contradicente*, or rather unanimously, I may say, by way of amendment.



[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [15th December 1923]

"Mr. President, it is a matter of some difficulty for me to speak on this occasion about you. After the death of my father, I always regarded you in that light. Through my struggling professional days, you helped me with your succour and guidance. On a very important occasion, junior though I was, you singled me out for a great honour, and without diverging into personal recollections let me say that you are responsible, largely instrumental, in having converted me from a non-official into an official. (Laughter.) You also, at a time when thus bound up by family ties of friendship and comradeship, we were still poles apart in politics, yet helped me and guided me with sage advice, on many an important occasion. It is therefore very difficult for me to speak on this occasion with a proper amount of prespective and proportion, but I should have deemed myself unworthy of the common ties and proper instincts if I did not take upon myself this opportunity to express what I felt in regard to your discharge of the duties as President of this Chamber. Great and eloquent tributes have been paid, and I shall not strive to reduplicate what has been said and said so well. There is a Latin maxim which translated signifies that a person may be suave in manner but strong in action, *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*. That has been the characteristic of your life, official as well as non-official. Complete courtesy and the graces of life were never divorced from strength and firmness of resolve and action, and as President you displayed that combination of noble qualities which in the Roman days were considered the equipment of a great man as making a complete man. That is my homage to you, Sir, and I take this occasion to pay it." (Cheers.)

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I second it."

The Motion, that the Resolution be recorded as having been agreed to unanimously, was then put and carried amidst cheers.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Mr. President, I ask your permission to present you, on behalf of the hon. Members here present, with a copy of the Resolution which has just been passed, with the signatures of the Members."

The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter then presented the copy of the Resolution enclosed in a silver casket mounted on ebony to the hon. the President.

The hon. the PRESIDENT, who on rising was loudly cheered, said :—"May I crave a few minutes of the time of the House in order to thank hon. Members for the Vote which they have just recorded so unanimously and for this valuable present which I will always cherish with feelings of gratitude? The terms of the Resolution, coming as it does from the most august Assembly in this province, make me feel that I have been amply rewarded for any service that I may have rendered to it in my capacity as President during the last three years. I have in the past held several offices both in this Presidency and elsewhere, some of them high offices; but in none of them have I been conscious of such a heavy sense of responsibility as in the one that I shall soon vacate. (Hear, hear!). I recall the feeling of great anxiety with which I entered upon my duties on the 17th December 1920; and it is, and will always be to me, a source of great pride and gratification that I quite early gained the confidence of the House and have, according to its unanimous verdict now given, maintained it unimpaired to the end.

"The reputation which this House deservedly enjoys all over India is, I am glad to think, a happy augury for the future. The temper of the House—



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[The President]

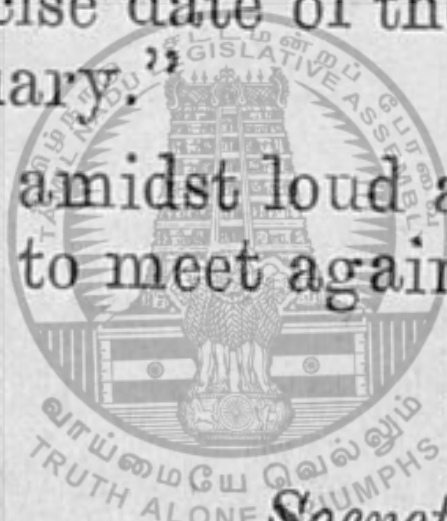
I refer to the last Council as well as to the present one—has been, I may say without flattery, excellent; and the level of its debates, of a high order. I am confident that as the years proceed, the House will grow in usefulness and efficiency, and that it will furnish the best proof that can be furnished of the capacity of the people of this Presidency for full responsible Government.

“I would be wanting in gratitude if I did not pay a special tribute to the Members of the Government as well as to the Leaders of the Opposition, each section of whom have so ably and willingly aided me in the arduous task of guiding the deliberations of this House. I desire also to mention with gratitude the co-operation of those who have been aptly described as being in the House though not of it, namely, the Secretary of the Council office (cheers) and his staff, the staff of official reporters and the reporters of the newspaper press, all of whom have contributed to the success of this Council. (Cheers.)

“In conclusion, let me wish godspeed to all hon. Members of this House; and, in so doing, I pray that this House may, under the dispensation of Providence, last and grow in wisdom and in strength, in purpose and in fulfilment, for all time to come. (Loud cheers.)

“The House will now adjourn to some day in January after the 15th. I am not now able to give the precise date of the next meeting, so I will say, to some date after the 15th of January.”

The hon. the President then, amidst loud and continued cheering, left the Chair, and the House adjourned to meet again in January 1924.



L. D. SWAMIKANNU,  
*Secretary to the Legislative Council.*